

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Steve Capps
(916) 651-8750

Relocation Service Opens Office in Topanga

LOS ANGELES – The private firm hired by the state to help find new homes for renters living on newly-purchased state park land has opened an office in Lower Topanga Canyon in an effort to streamline the process and make it more convenient for residents.

The office opened by Pacific Relocation Consultants is: Room No. 7, Topanga Motel, 18711 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, Calif., 90265. Office hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, or by appointment. The telephone number is (310) 456-9125.

The office is being set up to help residents secure new housing, and process their entitlement claims for moving expenses and the cost of new housing.

There are about 70 renters currently living on the Lower Topanga Canyon property, which was purchased by State Parks last August. The residents have been told to plan on moving out of their rental units by July 1. Some have already moved and others are in the process. The residents were paying rent on a month-to-month basis arrangement with the previous owner, LAACO Ltd., and have continued under a month-to-month arrangement since the state purchased the property last summer.

State law requires state agencies that are relocating residents, including renters, from public property to help them find comparable housing and pay moving expenses. If the comparable housing costs more, the state pays the difference calculated over a 42-month period. In the case of Lower Topanga Canyon, the total payments due residents are expected to average about \$80,000 each.

The 1,659-acre parcel encompassing Lower Topanga Canyon was purchased by the state last August as an addition to Topanga State Park. The dominant feature of the property is Topanga Creek, one of the last remaining coastal stream courses in Southern California. The property is home to several endangered species, including the Brown pelican and the Southern Steelhead trout.

State Parks is drafting an interim management plan for the property that will call for several immediate steps to protect and improve the property, and provide for some immediate public use once the residents have been relocated. The department has held three public hearings on the plan.

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